

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

June 7, 2006

The Honorable Duncan Hunter
Chairman
House Armed Services Committee
2120 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Ike Skelton
Ranking Member
House Armed Services Committee
2340 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Hunter and Ranking Member Skelton,

We are writing to ask that our committee hold a hearing on alternative energy and energy efficiency programs and activities at the Department of Defense.

The Department of Defense is the largest electricity consumer in the federal government, and the single largest buyer of fuel in the U.S. – using 2% of our total national consumption. DoD's Defense Energy Support Center (DESC), which buys and manages oil and other energy supplies for the military services, buys more light refined petroleum than any other single organization or company in the world.

DoD should be commended for the progress it has already made to bring alternative fuels and clean power to its bases, vehicles, and weapons systems. DESC is already the largest buyer of B20, and its pumps across the country supply E85. The Air Force is working on new electric motors for large, heavy-duty vehicles, low-cost advanced batteries, and biomass systems. The Marine Corps is looking at hybrid-electric technology and fuel cell development to power its next-generation Humvees.

But while it isn't hard to find these isolated reports of DoD's clean energy efforts, it is hard to gain a comprehensive understanding of the Pentagon's activities in these areas. It isn't clear whether the Department's various agencies and the services are coordinating their clean energy efforts, nor does there appear to be an overarching plan guiding DoD's clean energy work.

We are aware that the Under Secretary of Defense has recently requested the Defense Science Board to form a task force on DoD Energy Strategy. We hope the work of the task force will help this Committee and Congress understand more about DoD's current efforts as well as future opportunities.

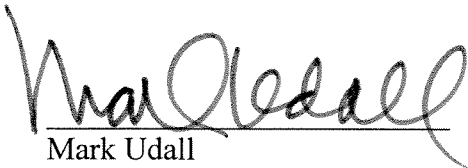
But in the meantime, we believe that it is important to hold a hearing to educate Members on what clean energy programs are already underway at DoD, what various reports and task forces on this issue have concluded in recent years, and what opportunities may lie ahead.

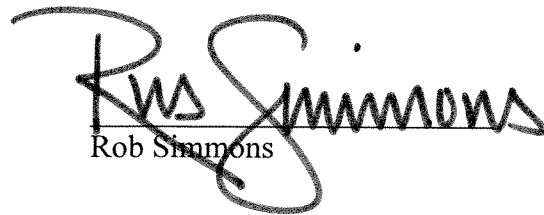
We think that to improve our national security, we must do more to improve our energy security. Utilizing alternative fuels and energy efficiency technologies can help our military increase

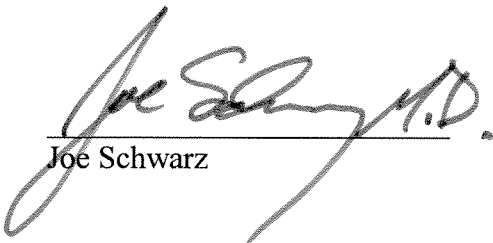
energy reliability and reduce its dependence on oil; improve efficiency in operations, platforms, and vehicles; reduce the costs to taxpayers of military-consumed electricity and fuel; expand portable clean technology options for use in combat and logistics; and act as an anchor customer for the alternative fuels and energy efficiency industries. But we can't determine the way ahead without a baseline on the current situation, which is what a hearing can help provide.

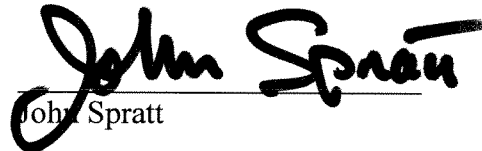
The Armed Services Committee is tasked with overseeing all military matters facing the nation. We ask that the Committee hold a hearing on alternative energy and energy efficiency programs and activities at the Department of Defense soon after we return back to session.

Sincerely,

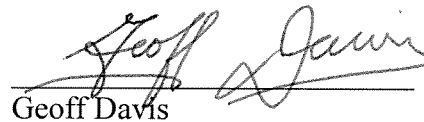

Mark Udall



Rob Simmons

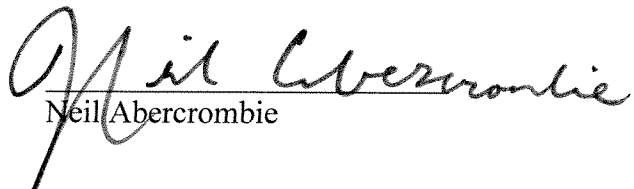

Joe Schwarz


John Spratt


Lane Evans

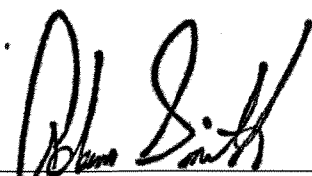

Geoff Davis


Gene Taylor


Neil Abercrombie



Martin T. Meehan


Silvestre Reyes

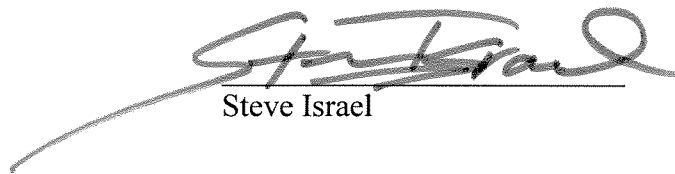

Adam Smith


Loretta Sanchez



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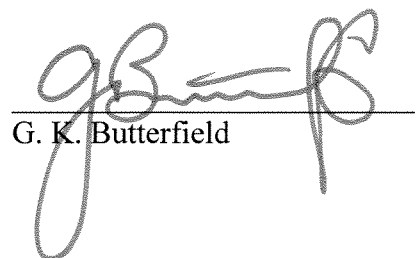

Susan A. Davis

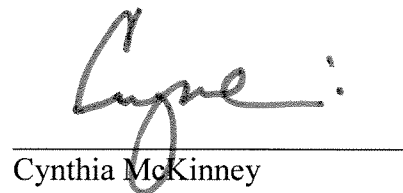

James R. Langevin



Steve Israel


Rick Larsen


Madeleine Z. Bordallo


G. K. Butterfield


Cynthia McKinney


Jo Ann Davis


Candice S. Miller

List of Signers

6/07/2006 Letter to Chairman Hunter/Ranking Member Skelton

Re Hearing on DoD Alternative Energy/Energy Efficiency Programs and Activities

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